

Announcement of an effort to restore water quality in North Fork Holston River in Saltville, Virginia

PUBLIC MEETING: Friends Community Church at 145 Palmer Avenue in Saltville, Virginia, on January 23, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment and announce a public meeting on a water quality improvement study by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Final public meeting on a study to restore water quality

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of pollutants that decrease the number and variety of aquatic organisms in the waters of the North Fork Holston River just downstream of Saltville in Smyth County and Washington County Virginia.

The 4.8 mile long "impaired" stream segment of North Fork Holston River begins at the confluence with Robertson Branch in Saltville and extends downstream to Tumbling Creek. The stream is impaired for the *Aquatic Life Use*- violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms.

The study reports the pollutants impairing the aquatic community and recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDL's, for the impaired water. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes a public comment period, including public meetings. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, January 23 to February 21, 2006. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW DRAFT TMDL REPORT: The draft TMDL report for the impaired water is available after January 9, 2006 from the contact below or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Nancy T. Norton, P.E. – Regional TMDL Coordinator

Address: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality-Southwest Regional Office, 355 Deadmore Street,
P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia, 24212-1688

Phone: (276) 676-4807 E-mail: ntnorton@deq.virginia.gov Fax: (276) 676-4899